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18 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Reference the three Washington newspaper executives scheduled to attend today's meeting of the Federal City Council. Two of them are editors: John O'Rourke, of the NEWS (Scripps-Howard) and Ben McKelway of the EVENING STAR; and the third, as you know, Philip Graham, is a publisher. Graham is supposed to know a great deal re CIA activities. O'Rourke and McKelway are favorable to Langley if D.C. is out; Graham is opposed.

The three Washington papers have consistently favored the District of Columbia as the site location for the CIA building. It will help the business of their big advertisers. The NEWS and the STAR, however, believe that if CIA does not locate in the District and favors Langley, you should make it clear that Langley is your choice and you will stand by it regardless of the final advice of the National Capital Planning Commission. John O'Rourke believes that the 6-5 vote was made, not on the need of CIA, but on the special interest each voter represented, a self-interest proposition. He wonders, though, if Virginia will provide road funds as promised to widen Route 123. Ben McKelway told me he hopes that CIA will select the District, but if you are not going to select a Foggy Bottom or Southwest Washington or other District site, then you should--and he expects that you will--let it be known that you are for Langley and that you will not waver.

The POST, however, is against CIA's going to Langley under any and all circumstances. If CIA wants to go to Alexandria, the POST is for it, but prefers the District. But even its news columns have been slanted in reporting against Langley. The opposition is said to come from Mrs. Agnes Meyer. The motive is not known.

Regarding your personal desire to locate the building in the District, this is what you testified:

SENATOR ROBERTSON. Mr. Dulles, I agree with the Armed Services Committee that reached the conclusion that you need an office building. Tell us why you can't build it in Washington.

MR. DULLES. Senator, I would prefer personally to build it in Washington. I have, however, consulted with high authority, and in view of the traffic problem in Washington, the theory is that our buildings ought to be outside the District.

SENATOR ROBERTSON. On account of the traffic problem?

MR. DULLES. Very largely on account of the traffic problem.  
(Discussion off the record.)

Also, in discussing West Potomac Park, you testified:

SENATOR ELLENDER. Why would it not be practical to put the building there instead of buying land somewhere else?

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MR. DULLES. I would be glad to do that. We discussed that with the executive branch of the government and the feeling is very strong that the CIA building should not be located where it would further aggravate the traffic problem of the District. When these plans for the new Potomac bridge that are indicated on this map are carried through, if they are carried through, the new approaches and the new bridges will mean that many of our buildings will not be there any more. Either you have to take these buildings away or give up the general program for a bridge or a tunnel to get your traffic in and out of Washington to and from Virginia.

In the same session you also testified: "(Langley)...is the best site for a series of reasons."....."Langley, Mr. Chairman, is my first choice. If I can't get Langley, I would select a site here" (pointing to Alexandria).

I believe the three newspapers will be, and two of them have been, impressed with your statement that you are pioneering for Government employees; that like the big department stores which are moving to the suburbs, you, too, want a park-like area where there is parking space for every employee and for your official and other visitors; with a place under the trees to eat in the summertime; conditions like those industry is providing in Westchester County, New York, for factory workers.

I would recommend, too, that you stress that of the 750 acres at Langley, the National Park Service controls 168; and that you will require only 140 acres from the 582 which the Bureau of Public Roads controls.

The STAR is campaigning to get rid of the temporary buildings and an immediate decision to go to Langley means that our 20 tempos will be freed for destruction within three years.

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STANLEY J. Grogan

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NOTE: Mr. Dulles returned this to Colonel White  
when they met at the Alibi Club at 5:00  
p.m. on 18 January with representatives of  
the Federal City Council.

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